

## Q&A Consistency Meeting Agenda for Mechanical, September 2016

### 1. Question: Are ventless bath fans allowed by code? (TR)

Answer: No, Table 403.3 requires Toilet Rooms and Bathrooms to be exhausted. While this requirement helps with odor, the main concern is moisture control. The ventless or ductless bath fans on the market only filter the air, via a charcoal packet that must be replaced routinely. They do not remove moisture.

### 2. Question: Is it permissible to route the primary and secondary condensate drains so they discharge at the same location? i.e. run them both to the same janitor's sink. (TR)

Answer: No, if the secondary drain is a code required drain per section 307.2.3, it would need to discharge at a conspicuous location. While the janitor's sink maybe in an area the occupants normally see, having both drains discharge in the same location would produce confusion as to which one discharge should not be coming out of.

### 3. Question: What is the intent of “discharge to a conspicuous point of disposal to alert occupants in the event of a stoppage of the primary drain” per 307.2.3 #1? (TR)

Answer: The intent of this code section is for the secondary drain to discharge where is it readily observable to the building occupants during normal activities

### 4. Question: Section 307.2.1 prohibits condensate from discharging into a street, alley or other areas so as to cause a nuisance. What are these nuisance areas? (TR)

Answer: Condensate should not discharge onto sidewalks, driveways, patios, or similar paved walking surfaces. The continuous flow of condensate could produce slick algae or if the condensate is from a condensing gas appliance or an air conditioner that operates all year, it could produce ice in the colder months. This would present a hazard to people.

### 5. Question: Who inspects the firewrap on dryers? The Mechanical or Building inspector? (TR)

Answer: The Building Inspector

### 6. Question: Does the requirements of 306.5 for roof access apply to equipment installed on the side of the building? (TR)

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Answer: Where equipment is installed on the side of the building, normally an exhaust fan for a hood; Section 306.5 does not apply. The code does not have access requirements for equipment installed on the side of the building.

7. Question: Can styrofoam blocks be used to support HVAC equipment in the pan? (TR)

Answer: Section 307.2.3.2 states the supports shall be water resistant and approved. Styrofoam packing could not be accepted for supports, but the high density blocks manufactured for that purpose could be accepted.

In one- and two- family dwellings: The clearance from the airhandler/furnance would need to be verified. The equipment would need to have zero clearance on the side in contact with the block.

In commercial applications: The clearance from the airhandler/furnance would need to be verified. The equipment would need to have zero clearance on the side in contact with the block. Blocks to be installed in plenums would need to be plenum rated. The foam blocks would need to have a flame spread index of not more than 75 and a smoke developed index of not more than 450 per 2603.3 NCBC.